

require; and, if that were not enough, a third pipe might minister to intermediate towns (such as Cheltenham, now hardly watered), and also to fountains,—a luxury and ornament to which the British people are little accustomed. QUODAM.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Extensive Town Improvements, Paris.—The municipal council has, in its last sittings, exhibited great energy in carrying out vast improvements, as it is also fully acknowledged on the banks of the Seine, that structural improvements cause improvements of the people. The perfect having proposed to grant the public lavatories a reduction in the price of water, the council have assented to it at once. Next, the enlargement of the Rue Montmartre was entered upon, which will be effected, beginning from the Rue Tiquetonne up to the passage du Saumon. On this occasion, the statistics of the late improvements have been laid before the municipality, from which we gather the following. During the years 1849 and 1850 the number of houses demolished in the different districts of Paris for the sake of improvement amounts to 323, of which the approaches to the Hotel de Ville comprise 88; those to the Louvre 98. The average price paid by the city to the owner was 415 francs for one metre: the total outlay amounted to 28,999,000 francs. The houses thus pulled down had formed about 4,845 abodes or lodgings, occupied, at an average, by three persons each. This amounts, therefore, to an expulsion of 15,000 people from their dwellings. The French press justly alludes to the necessity of providing the people, thus removed from their abodes, with others of an improved character. It justly reproves the present custom of replacing houses of an inferior character by mansions and luxurious shops, and appropriately hints at an improved system of co-operative building for the industrious classes.

Munich New Society for the Improvement of Trades and Industry.—The chief purpose of this new establishment in the Bavarian capital is—to impart (*communicate*) the innate force of art and its improvements to those branches of trade and industry which stand in connection with the putting forth of tasteful and beautiful forms; to make them follow those principles independent of any transitory or foreign fashion; and to achieve, as well, solidity and moderate prices. To dilate on the utility of a connection between art and trades would be needless; but the Munich society has effectively organised, in Germany, this long-felt desideratum, by furnishing manufacturers with suitable designs for any given purpose, by exhibiting articles appertaining to its competency, by purchasing such for the distribution of prizes, and by publishing an illustrated periodical. A new feature also has been given to this society by its decidedly national and German character, because, as long as the art-forms of any people be entirely determined and ruled by any foreign patterns, be they even those of Rome, Athens, or Pompeii, they will still lack of an independent, creative power. That these ideas begin to be rather prevalent in Munich, may be gathered from the festival on the installation of the Bavaria, where all ornamentation belonged to the old German art-sphere, as was also the case in the album and bureau of the tradesmen, presented to King Ludwig.

COFFEE-SHOPS OF LONDON.

You will perhaps allow me to express my concurrence with the remarks of "A District Surveyor" (p. 64), respecting the coffee-shops of London. Those who know anything of foreigners on the Continent will perceive the necessity of providing them with viands suitable to their tastes. The beef, pork, and mutton dishes which are so dear to Englishmen, will not only be dear, but indigestible to nine-tenths of our visitors this year. The general construction and management of the greater number of our coffee-shops are also very faulty, compared with the *cafés* of France and Germany. Whatever opinions we may have

respecting the personal habits of foreigners, their *cafés* are generally noted for cleanliness and comfort, while their coffee and other beverages are no less famed.

With a few exceptions here and there, the coffee-shop keepers of London pay little or no attention to cleanliness, neatness, or snugness. Some coffee houses, indeed, are so objectional in these points as to prevent decently-attired persons from frequenting them. The place is often dirty, and the attendants slovenly. These remarks apply with still greater force to cooks' shops. A very bad custom, prevalent in all coffee-shops, cooks' shops, &c., is that of allowing persons to exchange papers with one another, instead of the exchanges being made through the attendants. It leads to much confusion and rude obstruction, by persons going about the room in quest of papers. Hence the privacy and comfort so desirable at meals are destroyed. There is, on the whole, much room for improvement in the construction of the compartments, or "boxes," as well as the general management of coffee-shops and cooks' shops; and I think the discussion of this subject comes very fairly within your province. P. P. K.

NOISOME REEK OF THE THAMES.

Nor many years back the river that bore the commerce of the globe to London, adorned, expurgated, and supplied the inhabitants: only little way above Vauxhall-bridge the mercantile marine was used to take in water, and from the same source was derived the aliment for household use. It is scarce twenty summers since a row from Westminster to London-bridge in a wherry was an agreeable passage, for the tidal returns carried off with them the sewage from a mass of habitations, which, since that period, have been doubled in number and population.

Since then, although the natural flow of the river remains the same, and the recurring swell of tide continues as equally, yet the quality of the original supply has been greatly deteriorated up to its highest tributaries, and the pollutions from both town and city taint Father Thames in a complicated volume of filth. Were it not for the action of paddle-wheels, which causes a fluctuation that washes off the slimy shoals along the margin, the nuisance of fetor would be much worse than it is at present; for now, along the whole extent from Vauxhall to the Pool, these black deposits cease to accumulate, and the bed at low-water discovers a pebbled shore.

The canals of the city are thus more effectively carried down, but in the process, being held in solution and saline commixture, by so much the more is the atmosphere tainted and the traffic incommoded.

If the increase of houses and population in the metropolis have aggravated the evils of a foul river, so the same cause operating in the rural districts (along the whole course to Richmond, and thence by Staines to Reading, Oxford, and other towns, as well as on the Colnefede, and numerous rivulets) must render the volume of the Thames, as a source of pipe-water supply, highly improper, if not detrimental, as it is impure. In fact, the only objects to which Thames water can now be applied, are those of navigation, emalgaration, and avoidance of the sewage, mortar, or grout-making, and (from the crassitude and economy of the ingredient) porter brewing!

So vitiated has the stream become of late years, that until the amateur of Barcarole anacronisms has ascended above Chelms, the reek and stenor of the river are at certain periods of tide insupportable, and always noxious. But below Waterloo-bridge it is black as Asheron. Steam-boats plying between bridges, when the atmosphere is still, give ample evidence of the fact, and very frequently, even when the wind is fresh up the river, it is commingled with a stench that it is painful to the senses as it must be injurious to health. The proposed amendment of sewers and diversion of sullage from the river by tunnels, which should carry the material to sate factories, may remedy the evil; and in the present age of improvement and enterprise, such a regulation would be as easy in the performance as the expense of con-

struction is within the scope of the city's means. Yet supposing this great system of civic sewage carried out, still unless all the towns on the "rivers" should be treated after a similar manner (so that the corporate rights of London in the due consanguinity of the Thames should be rigidly enforced), no use could be properly made of the natural river-supply for nutrition, or even for culinary purposes.

Science and art, which are daily adding to the comforts of mankind, may yet offer some new remedy for the growing vitiation of this element of life. The columns of THE BUILDER announce a new filtering apparatus, which, applied to every cistern, will, as pledged, yield a constant supply of faultless limpid water: how this may answer I am not informed; should it, however, be efficacious, then one desideratum will be gained; but until the sewage be wholly carried off from the river and disinfectured, all the regions of the vicinage must remain unhealthy, and the free traffic of waterway continue to be, as it now is, disgusting.

As the growth of population is the cause, so every increase to the sojourner must add to the loathful reek of the river; and the accession of one million during every month of the coming summer increases the breathing horror. The memory of every one who had a penny or twopenny transit last summer from Hungerford to the Shades must shudder in the recollections of appalling misadventures; and even those whose nasal perceptions are obtuse, if they have any dread of contagion and the spread of cholera, cannot but feel an interest in the great sanitary question—the expurgation of the river.

Foreigners (particularly the Parisians, who have no river locomotives) are very prone to the use of those facilities which cheap steamers afford in the long reaches: they will admire the noble aspect of St. Paul's, Somerset House, the spires, and, at high-tide, the majestic flood itself; but in the contemplation what spams will not offend sensitiveness interpose to disenchant the wondering tourist? for not all the artifice of millefleurs, odours, or essences can overpower the baneful fluid.

Of the plans sent to the Board of Health, some are admitted good and feasible. The Corporation itself considers the necessity for improvement crying, while it purposes to expend more money in only modifying the abominations of Smithfield; but authorities are somewhat bodies, until they are impelled by some dire calamity. Your correspondent once spoke of the matter to a civil official, who shortly reproved him in these words,—"What business is it of yours? You can never let nothing alone."

A man employed cannot not one d—n
For all the professed hints of

QUODAM.

THE BURY PEEL MEMORIAL.

THE sum of £7,000, having been subscribed in the native town of the late Sir Robert Peel, a limited competition was allowed, in which the following artists were requested to send models of a monument suitable to a site and position pointed out,—namely, Baily, Behnes, Bonner, Chestwood, Duckitt, Durham, J. Foley, K. A. Foley, Hoggan, Jones, Lough, Macdowell, Milnes, Marshall (the artist successful in the Manchester competition), Marchetti, Manning, Noble, Thomas, Weekes, Theed, and Trusfitt, in all twenty-one. All the models, nearly forty in number, have been arranged for exhibition in the new Town-hall, recently erected by the Earl of Derby. The principal figures will be in bronze, and the pedestal in granite. The successful artist will receive £2,500, for the monument. Out of thirty-eight statues, busts, and architectural designs, there are five by Baily, two by Macdowell, two by Noble, three by Jones, two by Durham, two by Duckitt, two by J. Foley, two by K. A. Foley, three by Manning, two by Marchetti, two by Milnes, three by Behnes, and one each by the rest, classified thus:—thirty-two statues, three busts, four architectural designs. Messrs. Bonner, Chestwood, Jones, and Trusfitt, are the authors of the four architectural designs. We are able to announce